

cont E1
H3

to thereby space the surfaces apart, providing the implant with at least one face which is opposite and shaped complementary to at least one of the first and second surfaces so that the implant can slidably move relative to the at least one of the first and second surfaces, allowing the face to move relative to the at least one of the first and second surfaces, permitting growth of fibroblast on the cancellous surface and conversion of the fibroblast into fibrocartilage during the allowing step, maintaining a spacing between the body joint defining surfaces during the permitting step, and waiting for the body to gradually resorb the implant during the permitting step so that, upon resorption of the implant, the fibrocartilage forms at least one of the body joint defining surfaces.

E2

25. (twice amended) A method for treating a joint having first and second mating joint surfaces comprising the following steps:

removing at least a portion of the first joint surface to expose a cancellous bone surface;

placing a bioresorbable implant between and in contact with the first and second joint surfaces so the implant initially keeps said exposed cancellous bone surface spaced apart from the second joint surface;

providing the implant with a face which is opposite the first surface;

permitting relative slidable motion between the face and the first surface; and

using the joint, which includes slidably moving the face relative to the first surface;

whereby the cancellous bone surface initially forms fibroblast which progresses into fibrocartilage as the implant is resorbed so the fibrocartilage effectively replaces the implant during such resorption;

estimating the period of time it will take for the fibroblast to progress into fibrocartilage; and

selecting the bioresorbable implant of a size, shape and material according to said period of time.

E3

26. (twice amended) A method for treating a joint having first and second mating joint surfaces carried by cancellous bone comprising the following steps: